

Delaware-Based Competitions and Grants

EDGE Grants

	Grant Amount Up to \$100k for STEM-based companies Up to \$25k for non-STEM businesses		Application Open Opening Soon (Apply Here) Application Close To Be Announced Grants Awarded 10 Grants Per Round	Host Organization Delaware Division of Small Business	Links: Homepage
EDGE Grants are intended for exactly what their acronym stands for—Encouraging Development, Growth & Expansion. This grant is given to small startups located in Delaware with less than 10 employees.	Eligibility Less than 5 years of operation Employ less than 10 people	Focus STEM/Entrepreneurship	Contact: Wilmington Area Joe Zilcosky Non-Wilmington Area of New Castle County David Mathe Kent County Laura Wisler Sussex County Lauren Swain https://business.delaware.gov/contact/		

DE Relief Grants

	Grant Amount Varies depending on size of business: \$0-\$500,000 in revenue: Up to \$30,000 \$500,000-\$1 million: Up to \$50,000 \$1 million-\$2.5 million: Up to \$72,500 \$2.5+ million: Up to \$100,000		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here) Application Close Open Until Further Notice	Host Organization Delaware Division of Small Business	Links: Homepage
The State of Delaware and New Castle County are trying to assist Delaware small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19.	Eligibility Any SBA-eligible business, as well as non-profits.	Focus COVID-19 Relief	Contact: General Contact DEReliefGrants@Delaware.gov		

Delaware Bioscience CAT Entrepreneurial Proof of Concept Grants

	Grant Amount May request up to \$50,000		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)	Host Organization Delaware Biotechnology Institute	Links: Homepage
<p>Entrepreneurial Proof of Concept grants are given to researchers looking to collect early-stage data leading to the creation of a new business operating in Delaware once the grant has been completed. Funds must go to a research Principal Investigator (PI) at a Delaware academic research institution.</p>	Eligibility Operating in Delaware, must not duplicate projects funded by other sources	Focus Entrepreneurship	Application Close 3/31/2021 Grants Awarded 2 cycles per year, 12 months of grant support	Contact: General Contact: cat@dbi.udel.edu	

Delaware Bioscience CAT Applied Research Collaborations

	Grant Amount May request up to \$100,000		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)	Host Organization Delaware Biotechnology Institute	Links: Homepage
<p>Applied Research Collaboration grants are given to support bioresearch collaborations that support economic development in Delaware. Projects must have at least one Delaware academic and one Delaware business partner.</p>	Eligibility Bioresearch collaborations with single or multi-principal investigators located in Delaware for hypothesis-driven research	Focus Bioscience Research	Application Close 3/31/2021 Grants Awarded 2 cycles per year, 12 months of grant support	Contact: General Contact: cat@dbi.udel.edu	

Community Grants and Funding

Comcast RISE Program

	<p>Program Rewards Advertising and Marketing Consultations TV Media Schedule Creative Production Tech Makeover Monetary Grant</p>	<p>Application Open Open Now Applications Close 5/7/2021 Program Awards Recipients chosen quarterly</p>	<p>Host Organization Comcast</p>	<p>Links: Homepage Apply Here</p>
<p>Comcast is providing services and upgrades to BIPOC-owned small businesses in need that have suffered through the pandemic.</p>	<p>Eligibility BIPOC-owned businesses</p>	<p>Focus Any Industry</p>	<p>Contact: General Contact 844-963-0234</p>	

Nav Small Business Grant

	<p>Grant Amount \$10,000 First Place \$5,000 Second Place</p>	<p>Application Open Opening April 2021 Applications Close June 2021 Grants Awarded Quarterly</p>	<p>Host Organization Nav</p>	<p>Links: Homepage Membership</p>
<p>A unique grant that is awarded through a social media voting process where the small business's customers can vote for their favorite small business. A large part of the application is a social media post, and they encourage creativity to win! Be on the lookout for the application to open so you can get started on the voting process right away!</p>	<p>Eligibility Must sign up for a free Nav membership and explain why you deserve the money</p>	<p>Focus Small Business</p>	<p>Contact: General Contact grants@nav.com</p>	

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

 <p>Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program</p>	<p>Grant Amount Equal to 45% of venue's 2019 gross earned revenue or \$10M, whichever is less</p>		<p>Application Open Opening Soon Applications Close To Be Announced Grants Awarded Dependent Upon Revenue Loss (More revenue loss will receive grants first)</p>	<p>Host Organization SBA</p>	<p>Links: Homepage</p>
<p>A grant for shuttered live entertainment venues that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain entities such as live venue promoters, theaters, museums, zoos, and more may be eligible to apply for grants.</p>	<p>Eligibility Live venue operators and promoters, theatrical producers, motion picture theater operators, and more as listed on the homepage.</p>	<p>Focus Performing Arts</p>	<p>Contact: General Contact SVOGrant@sba.gov</p>		

Amber Grant for Women

	<p>Grant Amount \$4,000 winner once a month \$1,000 for runner-up \$25,000 once a year</p>		<p>Application Open First day of each month Application Close Last day of each month Grants Awarded One winner each month</p>	<p>Host Organization WomensNet</p>	<p>Links: Homepage Apply Here</p>
<p>A grant for women with businesses awarded in honor of Amber Wigdahl, who tragically passed away at the age of 19 before she was able to realize her business dreams.</p>	<p>Eligibility Must be a woman 18 years or older with a business</p>	<p>Focus Any Industry</p>	<p>Contact: General Contact info@womensnet.net</p>		

NASE Growth Grants

		Grant Amount \$4,000		Application Open Always Open to Members	Host Organization NASE	Links: Homepage Membership
A grant for small business owners that are members of the National Association for the Self-Employed to finance business needs.	Eligibility Must be a member of NASE for at least 3 months prior to applying	Focus Small Business	Applications Close N/A Grants Awarded Number given varies, grants awarded quarterly	Contact: NASE Grants Administrator grants_scholarships@nase.org		

Development Innovation Ventures (DIV)

		Grant Amount Stage 1: Pilot (up to \$200K) Stage 2: Test and Position for Scale (up to \$1.5M) Stage 3: Transition to Scale (up to \$5M) Evidence Grants: (up to \$1.5M)		Application Open Always Open Grants Awarded 10-20 awarded per year (1-2% of applicants)	Host Organization USAID	Links: Homepage Apply Here
Multiple stages of grants for innovators and researchers to test new ideas and solutions that can change the world and help improve people's lives.	Eligibility Determine if you are eligible using the DIV Questionnaire	Focus Any Industry		Contact: General Contact div@usaid.gov		

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

United States Division of Agriculture (USDA)

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are competitive programs that encourage small businesses to engage in federal research and development projects with the potential for commercialization. Each agency offers a list of broad research topics, and you may find that your business already takes part in one or more of the topics offered. If so, you may be eligible to apply for a grant. Below is a list of topics currently being considered for SBIR grant awards by the USDA.

- Animal Production and Protection
- Aquaculture
- Biofuels and Biobased Products
- Conservation of Natural Resources
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Forests and Related Resources
- Plant Production and Protection - Biology
- Plant Production and Protection – Engineering
- Rural and Community Development
- Small and Mid-Size Farms

Grant amounts for each topic range from **\$50,000 to \$650,000** depending on scale of project and SBIR Phase. Contact USDA for more details on specific amounts for each topic.

If any of these topics interest you, read more about the specific opportunities in [this document](#)

Applications Open Now
Applications Close: 5/3/2021

[Apply here](#) if your business is already involved with one of these topics

For more information about the USDA SBIR programs, contact Kelly McDonald:
kelly.mcdonald2@usda.gov

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation (NSF)

<p>Below is a list of topics currently being offered by the NSF for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant opportunities.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Analytics • Advanced Manufacturing • Advanced Materials • Artificial Intelligence • Augmented/Virtual Reality • Biological Technologies • Chemical Technologies • Cloud and High-Performance Technologies • Cybersecurity and Authentication • Digital Health • Distributed Ledger • Energy Technologies • Environmental Technologies • Human-Computer Interaction • Instrumentation and Hardware Systems • Internet of Things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and Cognition Technologies • Medical Devices • Mobility • Nanotechnology • Other Topics • Pharmaceutical Technology • Photonics • Power Management • Quantum Information Technologies • Robotics • Semiconductors • Space • Wireless Technologies 	<p>Grant amounts for each topic range from \$5,000 to \$256,000 depending on scale of project and SBIR Phase. Contact NSF for more details on specific amounts for each topic.</p>
		<p>If any of these topics interest you, refer to this document to find the contact that is associated with your topic of interest</p>
		<p>Applications Open Now Applications Close: 6/3/2021</p>
		<p>Apply here if your business is already involved with one of these topics.</p>
		<p>To view more subtopics of these individual topics, view the original NSF posting on the SBIR website.</p>

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

Department of Commerce (DOC)

<p>Below is a list of topics currently being offered by the DOC for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant opportunities.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Communications, Networks, and Scientific Data Systems • Advanced Manufacturing and Material Measurements • Cybersecurity and Privacy • Exploratory Measurement Science • Fundamental Measurement, Quantum Science, and Measurement Dissemination • Health and Biological Systems Measurements • Physical Infrastructure and Resilience 	<p>Grant amounts for each topic for up to \$100,000 in Phase I and up to \$400,000 for Phase II depending on scale of project. Contact DOC for more details on specific amounts for each topic.</p>
	<p>To view the listing on the SBIR website, click here.</p>
	<p>Applications Open Now Applications Close: 4/14/2021</p>
	<p>Apply here if your business is already involved with one of these topics.</p>
	<p>For questions about specific grant topics, contact Mary Clague at mary.clague@nist.gov.</p>

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

<p>Below is a list of topics currently being offered by the HHS for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant opportunities.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing Imaging, Device Production, and Clinical Capabilities in Digital Dentistry. • BRAIN Initiative: Development Optimization, and Validation of Novel Tools and Technologies for Neuroscience Research • Better Defining Growth Medium to Improve Reproductivity of Cell Culture • Innovative Technologies for HIV Behavioral and Social Science Research • Novel Tools and Devices for Animal Research Facilities and to Support Care of Animal Models • Novel Tools for Investigating Brain-Derived GPCRs in Mental Health Research • Wearable Alcohol Biosensors 	<p>Grant amounts for each topic for up to \$150,000 in Phase I and up to \$1,000,000 for Phase II depending on scale of project. Contact HHS for more details on specific amounts for each topic.</p>
	<p>To view all the the HHS listings directly on the SBIR website, click here.</p>
	<p>Applications Open Now Applications Close: 4/5/2021</p>
	<p>Apply here if your business is already involved with one of these topics.</p>
	<p>For general information about these grants, contact GrantsInfo@nih.gov</p>

Federal Funding Opportunities (General)

 <p>GRANTS.GOVSM FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.SM</p>	<p>This is a website where government agencies post grant opportunities. Use the search tool to find grants that can be used for your small business.</p>	<u>Grants</u>
 <p>US GRANTS ORG</p>	<p>This is a database that allows you to search for all kinds of grants, and even allows you to sign up for weekly grant alerts so you never miss opportunities to receive funding.</p>	<u>Grants</u>
 <p>GrantWatchTM Time to apply</p>	<p>GrantWatch is a database that takes government and foundation grants and puts them into user-friendly summaries. They make it easy to search for grants that apply to your small business.</p>	<u>Grants</u>
 <p>MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</p>	<p>The Minority Business Development Agency is devoted to helping minority-owned businesses grow in size and scale. They do this through workshops, initiatives, and grants that can all be found on their website.</p>	<u>Visit Website</u>
 <p>Challenge.gov</p>	<p>This site is used by the federal government to post prize competitions and challenges. These are used to get ideas directly from the public such as software, technologies, and other solutions that your business may already be developing. Check to see if you can win funding from any challenges.</p>	<u>Challenges</u>

University-Sponsored Competitions

Milken-Penn GSE Education Business Plan Competition

 Education Business Plan Competition & Conference	Cash Prizes \$70,000+ (\$40,000 to winner)	In-Kind Prizes \$40,000+ in Amazon Web Services credits and more	Application Open 3/10/2021 Application Close 4/20/2021 Final Rounds 10/5/2021	Location University of Pennsylvania and Virtual	Links: Homepage Past Winners
Considered to be the most prestigious and well-funded education business plan competition in the world, this competition has awarded entrepreneurs of all ages with more than \$1.4 million in cash prizes since 2010.	Eligibility Open to all, no age/university application requirements	Focus Education	Contact: General Contact educomp@gse.upenn.org		

e-Fest: Schulze Entrepreneurship Challenge

	Cash Prizes \$215,000 (\$50,000 grand prize)	In-Kind Prizes N/A	Application Open 2/12/2021 Application Close 3/7/2021 Final Rounds 4/22-4/24/2021	Location University of St. Thomas (MN) or Virtual	Links: Homepage Past Winners
A competition for North American college students to compete for a piece of \$215,000. Looks to provide learning experiences and networking opportunities with fellow entrepreneurs.	Eligibility Undergraduate team leaders	Focus Any Industry	Contact: General Contact E-fest@eix.org		

Collegiate Inventors Competition

 Collegiate Inventors Competition®	Cash Prizes Up to \$15,000 for 3 Winners		Application Open Opening Soon Application Close 6/2021	Location Virtual	Links: Homepage Past Winners
An essay-based competition for startups to explain their business and how they believe their product will benefit certain aspects of society. This competition is STEM-focused, and the awards are based off the applications. Patented products are not eligible.	Eligibility Full-time students enrolled in a U.S. college or university	Focus STEM	Final Rounds To Be Announced	Contact: General Contact collegiate@invent.org	